

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 311127 TOSEC 130065  
ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 311127 TOSEC 130065

FOL RPT LONDON 20970 ACTION SECSTATE INFO JIDDA SANA MUSCAT  
ABU DHABI KUWAIT MOSCOW 29 DEC 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T LONDON 20970

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UK, UR, YS

SUBJECT: BRITISH AND SOVIET RELATIONS WITH PDRY  
(SOUTH YEMEN)

REF: LONDON 20522 (NOTAL)

1. BEAUMONT, FCO DESK OFFICER FOR THE YEMENS,  
GAVE US A REVIEW OF ANGLO-PDRY RELATIONS DECEMBER 29.  
IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PDRY AMBASSADOR, FCO MIDDLE EAST  
DEPT HEAD LUCAS ON DECEMBER 21 SUMMONED THE PDRY  
CHARGE, ELFEE, AND COMPLAINED ABOUT PDRY HARRASSMENT  
OF BRITISH EMBASSY IN ADEN AND DENYING ENTRY TO  
BRITISH NATIONALS ARRIVING THERE WITH VALID VISAS  
(LONDON 20169, NOTAL). LUCAS ALSO EXPRESSED HIS  
DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE DETERIORATION OF BRITISH-  
PDRY RELATIONS GENERALLY. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD  
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REPORT CONVERSATION TO ADEN, AND BRITISH EMBASSY  
THERE IS INSTRUCTED TO FOLLOW UP.

2. BEAUMONT SAID THAT FCO AT PRESENT HAS NO PLAN  
TO SEND A SMALL BRITISH MISSION TO ADEN HEADED BY  
LUCAS. BEAUMONT HIMSELF WILL VISIT BOTH OF THE  
YEMENS ON AN ORIENTATION TOUR IN MARCH. AN OFFICER

FROM THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN JIDDA NAMED SHIPMAN HAS JUST VISITED PDRY AND CAME AWAY APPALLED. IN JIDDA, MEANWHILE, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IS ABOUT TO PASS INFORMATION ON TERRORISM IN PDRY TO THE SAUDIS. BEAUMONT COMMENTED THAT THE FCO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SAUDIS HAVE NOT YET SHUT THE DOOR ON PDRY.

3. WITHOUT FURTHER AMPLIFICATION, EMBOFF ASKED IF FCO HAS ANY INDICATIONS OF POLITICAL UNREST IN PDRY. BEAUMONT REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INDICATIONS OF AN INTERNAL RESISTANCE MOVEMENT AND THAT THE PDRY GOVERNMENT HAS THE "LID SCREWED ON TIGHT." HE GAVE EMBOFF COPIES OF SALIM ALI'S SPEECH AT THE PDRY TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AND AN EXTRACT FROM THE NOVEMBER 9 ISSUE OF A PDRY NEWSPAPER CONTAINING A SPEECH BY PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI' (POUCHED TO NEA/ARP). THE BRITISH CHARGE IN ADEN COMMENTED THAT THESE SPEECHES CONSTITUTE THE CLEAREST STATEMENTS YET OF PDRY FOREIGN POLICY, AND SHOW THAT THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT PDRY INTENDS AN ADJUSTMENT OR MODERATION OF ITS POLICIES WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE OTHER ARABS, PARTICULARLY THE SAUDIS.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE SOVIET USE OF ADEN, BEAUMONT SAID THE BRITISH CHARGE HAS REPORTED THAT ADEN IS  
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NOW IN EFFECT A SOVIET BASE, AND THAT SUBSTANTIVELY IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER A BASE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED OR NOT IN VIEW OF THE ACTUAL DEGREE OF SOVIET USE. HE THOUGHT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR A BASE AGREEMENT BECAUSE THE SOVIETS WANT IT "CUT AND DRIED;" HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT IN THIS CASE PDRY WOULD RESIST SIGNING AN AGREEMENT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE OTHER ARAB ANTI-PDRY REACTION WOULD THEN BE EVEN GREATER THAN IT ALREADY IS.

5. ACTION RECOMMENDED: IN VIEW OF OUR CONTINUING CLOSE EXCHANGES WITH THE BRITISH ON THIS ISSUE, WE RECOMMEND THAT IF THE SAUDIS RAISE THE SUBJECT OF PDRY DURING THE PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, EMBASSY LONDON BE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF THE FCO ON THIS AS WELL AS OTHER ITEMS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP DEEMED APPROPRIATE FOR SUCH BILATERAL BRIEFINGS.

BREWSTER

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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